GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2610
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants
Mahendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) mustard crop (transgenic food crop) have been facing a major crisis, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) intents to withdraw funding for the project and to withdraw from the Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants at Delhi University;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has accorded its permission for commercial production of transgenic food crops; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): Confined field trials of GM mustard hybrid DMH-11 developed by Center for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants at Delhi University; have been completed under BRL-I (2010-11 and 2011-12) and BRL-II (2014-15). Trials were conducted by ICAR. Bio-safety studies have also been completed.

(b) & (c): NDDB has been supporting the mustard breeding project of Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP), University of Delhi. However, it has now informed that it proposes to stop the funding and wants ICAR to fund the project in the next phase.

(d) & (e): The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) notified under Rules, 1989 is the apex body to accord approval for large scale use and commercial release of Genetically Modified Organisms. GEAC had approved the application from Centre for the Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants, University of Delhi (CGMCP) for permission to conduct BRL-II trials of transgenic mustard hybrid (DMH-11) at three places i.e. Ludhiana, Bhatinda and Delhi. After completion of the trials, the CGMCP has submitted an application to the GEAC for consideration for commercial release of transgenic mustard.

Introduction of any new GM crop is preceded by a careful analysis of risks and evaluation of long term benefits, for which extensive rules and guidelines have been framed by the Government of India for evaluating environmental and health safety impact of genetically modified organisms.

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